

Day Outing Wednesday 14 June 2023

Leader Susan Nelles

Minjerribah - North Stradbroke Island

The QNC excursion to Minjerribah North Stradbroke Island on Wednesday 14 June 2023 took place on a warm, sunny day. Nine members set sail from Cleveland on calm waters and were taken by a maxi taxi to Budjong Djara National Park. There are five tracks leaving from the Karboora car park, and we walked along the Karboora/Blue lake one. It is 3km one way, through wallum woodland.

We passed Tortoise Lagoon which is a perched lake high above the water table. Most of us walked at 'Nats' pace, others came back on another path. It had rained all Saturday, and showered the night before, so we enjoyed displays of fungi, mosses and lichens. The *Banksia aemula* were flowering, a few *Banksia spinulosa* were seen. The white orchid *Caladenia catenata* dotted the damp sand banks. We enjoyed multiple sightings of large clumps of the luminescent night fungus, *Omphalotus nidiformis* in many hues on logs and stumps.

Other fungi seen included *Marasmius*, *Ramaria capitata*, Red Russula, *Amanita*, *Cortinarius* sp. (brown) and tiny brown conical fungus. Lofty trees including *Eucalyptus planchoniana*, shedding their large, woody capsules, *Corymbia gummifera*, and the *Elaeocarpus reticularis* blueberry ash fruit were abundant. Birds were heard above, but elusive - spotted pardalote, scarlet myzomele (honeyeater), noisy friarbird, grey fantail, silvereye, pelican, white bellied sea eagle. At the Dunwich ferry, a pied cormorant had a lively striped eel catfish in its mouth. A dugong was seen on the way home.

Insects recorded included a Dodonea Moth, an Orange Ringlet, a Wandering Ringtail, a damselfly, spider nests and delicate webs. A frog was heard. Greg Neill took a sound recording of the frog using The Australian Museum Frog ID app. The sound was identified as a Common Eastern Froglet, *Crinia signifera*.

It was a peaceful wonderland and one of the members sketched pages of beautiful drawings. Some photos from our excursion are included in the News but to see many more you can access our iNaturalist project here -

<https://inaturalist.ala.org.au/projects/qnc-2023-june-north-stradbroke-is>. We recorded 202 observations and 74 species.

Note that the *Flora of NSI* by K Stephens and D Sharp is available at the Herbarium for \$32.40. It was an enjoyable, relaxing day overseas, and we'll be visiting Point Lookout in late July to see the whales frolicking, we hope.



Pied Cormorant (*Phalacrocorax varius*) enjoying a Striped Eel Catfish (*Plotosus lineatus*) for lunch



Amanita Mushrooms (Genus Amanita) Notes: QNC excursion, mirror is 50mm diam.



Leucopogon pimeleoides



Ghost Fungus (*Omphalotus nidiformis*)



Blood Red Russula (*Russula rosacea*)



Painted Fingers (*Caladenia picta*)



Hairpin Banksia (*Banksia spinulosa*)

